

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

34 St

MAY 15 1918

STOP CANTALOUPE LOSSES

Wrapped Cantaloupes When Shipped Under Refrigeration
Decay and Mold Rapidly After Unloading



WRAPPED VERSUS NOT WRAPPED CANTALOUPE.

Those on the left were wrapped, those on the right were not wrapped. This photograph illustrates their condition 2 days after unloading from a refrigerator car. Note the mold on those melons which were wrapped.

SHIPPERS

Wrapping cantaloupes for shipment in refrigerator cars is the cause of serious loss at the terminal markets. Help the dealers to build up your reputation for good melons.

DO NOT WRAP CANTALOUPE

DEALERS

Wrapped cantaloupes deteriorate rapidly after removal from refrigerator cars. Unwrapped cantaloupes will keep better for both you and the consumer.

DEMAND DEPENDS ON QUALITY

Why Wrapping Causes Losses

Most of the loss from wrapping is caused by decay and mold which develop after cantaloupes are unloaded from refrigerator cars. When, on summer days, crates of cold cantaloupes are removed from refrigerator cars, moisture from the atmosphere condenses on the surfaces of the melons. This moisture soon evaporates from cantaloupes not wrapped, but from wrapped cantaloupes evaporation is hindered by the paper, and the moisture aids the development of decay and mold.

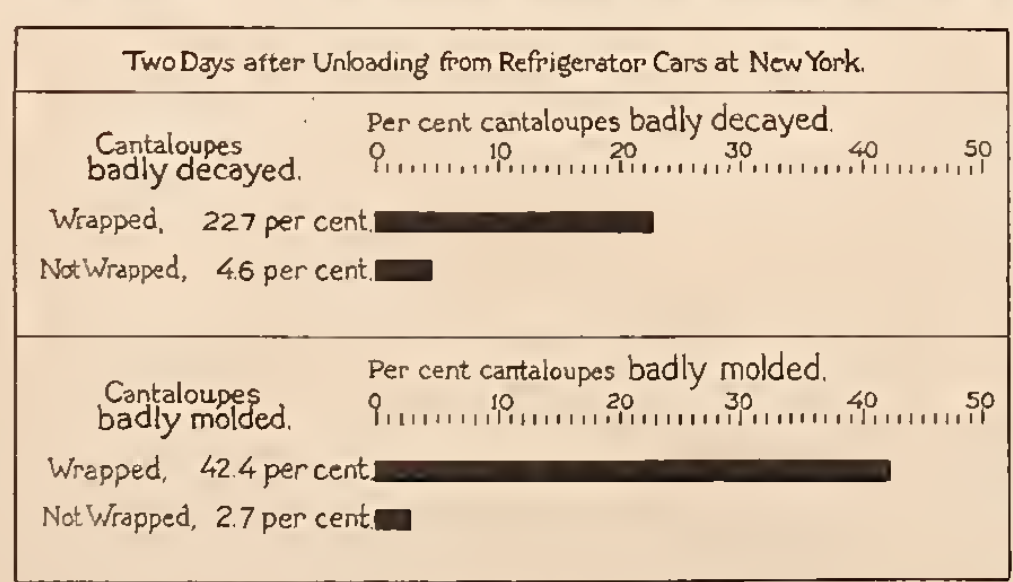


Diagram illustrating average differences in decay and mold in 13 shipments of wrapped and not wrapped cantaloupes from the Imperial Valley, Cal., to New York City during the season of 1917.

The practice of wrapping also enables unscrupulous persons to cover up and pack defective cantaloupes. It is difficult for inspectors and buyers to examine crates of wrapped cantaloupes.

While wrapped melons may remain firm longer than those unwrapped, owing to the difference in evaporation of moisture, this benefit is not sufficient to compensate for the decay and mold which result from wrapping.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF MARKETS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

